



Catholic Conscience

The voice of the heart.

The Principles, Values and Virtues of Catholic Social Thought

Fertile Common Ground

The Principles, Values and Virtues of Catholic Social Thought

Permanent Principles

- *Dignity of the Human Person*
- *The Common Good*
- *Subsidiarity*
- *Solidarity*

Fundamental Values

- *Truth*
- *Freedom*
- *Justice*
- *Love*

Christian Virtues

- *Faith, Hope*
- *Wisdom*
- *Humility*
- *Stewardship; Prudence*
- *Temperance*
- *etc.*



Many voices, few shared values.

The **LORD** said to Moses:
Come up to me on the
mountain and, while you are
there, I will give you the stone
tablets on which I have
written the commandments
intended for their instruction.

Exodus 24:12





The Garden of Eden with the Fall of Man / Jan Brueghel the Elder and Peter Paul Rubens
Mauritshuis, 1616 / Wikimedia Commons

Genesis 3

Because you ate from the tree about which I commanded you, You shall not eat from it. Cursed is the ground because of you!... Thorns and thistles it shall bear for you, and you shall eat the grass of the field.

By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, from which you were taken;

For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.



Dankgebet nach Verlassen der Arche Noah / Domenico Morelli, 1901 / Wikimedia Commons / Dorotheum

Genesis 6

When God saw how corrupt the earth had become, since all mortals had corrupted their ways on earth, God said to Noah: I see that the end of all mortals has come, for the earth is full of lawlessness because of them. So I am going to destroy them with the earth.



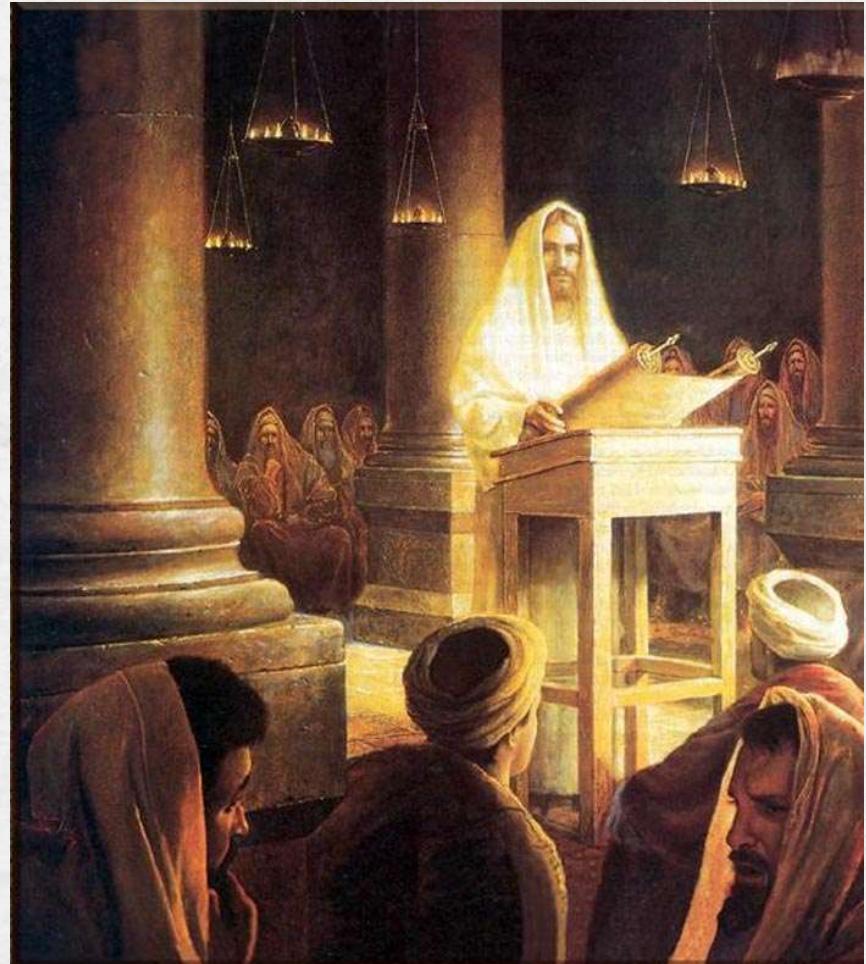
Synagogue in Verona, Italy / JoJan, 2013 / Wikimedia Commons CC-SA-3.0

Deuteronomy 11

If, then, you truly listen to my commandments which I give you today, loving and serving the LORD, your God, with your whole heart and your whole being, I will give the seasonal rain to your land... that you may have your grain, wine and oil to gather in; and I will bring forth grass in your fields for your animals. Thus you may eat and be satisfied.

But be careful lest your heart be so lured away that you serve other gods and bow down to them.

For then the anger of the LORD will flare up against you and he will close up the heavens... and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you.



Matthew 22; Luke 10

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.

*“The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. **

“The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

* “Neighbour” being defined in the very next section of Luke 10



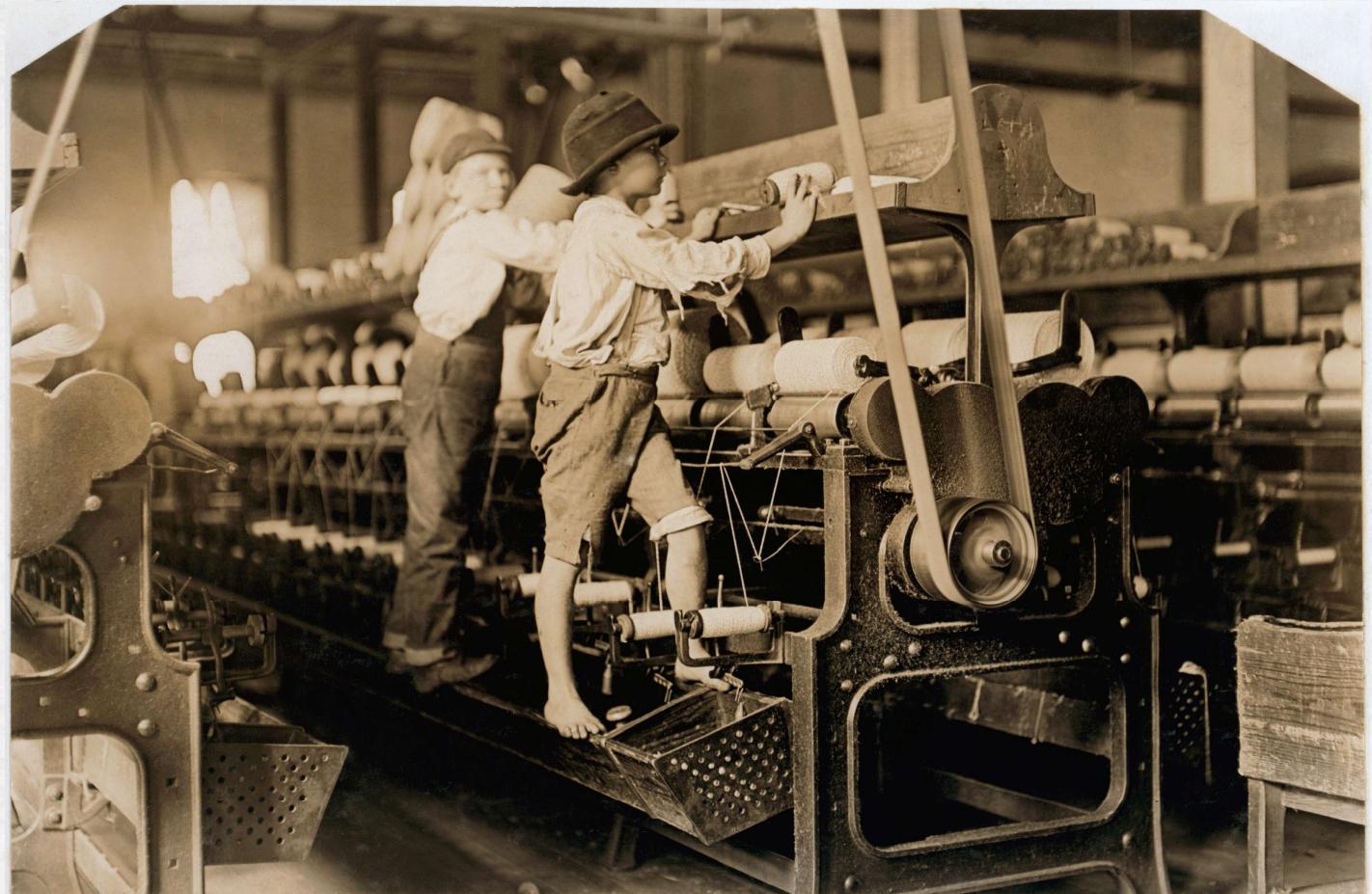
Matthew 25

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats...

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me... '

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'

The Industrial Revolution brought many new concerns.





Sublimus Dei

On the Enslavement and Evangelization of Indians

Indians and all other people who may later be discovered by Christians, are by no means to be deprived of their liberty or the possession of their property, even though they be outside the faith of Jesus Christ; and they may and should, freely and legitimately, enjoy their liberty and the possession of their property; nor should they be in any way enslaved...

Pope Paul III, 1537

That the spirit of revolutionary change, which has long been disturbing the nations of the world, should have passed beyond the sphere of politics and made its influence felt in the cognate sphere of practical economics is not surprising... In the vast expansion of industrial pursuits and the marvelous discoveries of science; in the changed relations between masters and workmen; in the enormous fortunes of some few individuals, and the utter poverty of the masses...

The momentous gravity of the state of things now obtaining fills every mind with painful apprehension; wise men are discussing it; practical men are proposing schemes; popular meetings, legislatures, and rulers of nations are all busied with it – actually there is no question which has taken deeper hold on the public mind.

Therefore... as on former occasions when it seemed opportune to refute false teaching, We have addressed you in the interests of the Church and of the common weal, and have issued letters bearing on political power, human liberty, the Christian constitution of the State, and like matters...



Wikimedia Commons / Library of Congress

Pope Leo XIII: *Rerum Novarum*, 1891

Papal documents

- *Libertas Praestantissimum*, Leo XIII, 1888
- *Rerum Novarum*, Leo XIII, 1891
- *Quadragesima Anno*, Pius XI, 1931
- *Pacem in Terris*, St. John XXIII, 1963
- *Populorum Progressio*, St. Paul VI, 1967
- *Laborem Exercens*, St. John Paul II, 1981
- *Centesimus Annus*, St. John Paul II, 1991
- *Caritas in Veritate*, Benedict XVI, 2009
- *Laudato Si'*, Francis, 2015
- *Fratelli Tutti*, Francis, 2020

...all of which (and more, up to 2004) were consulted in preparing the
Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.



The Compendium *of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

- Comprehensive collection of the social thought of the church, drawing upon Gospels, Catechism, encyclicals...
- 2004, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (St John Paul II)
- Available at Novalis, Amazon, many other places
- Free (and searchable) online at www.Vatican.va

COMPENDIUM
OF THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE
OF THE CHURCH



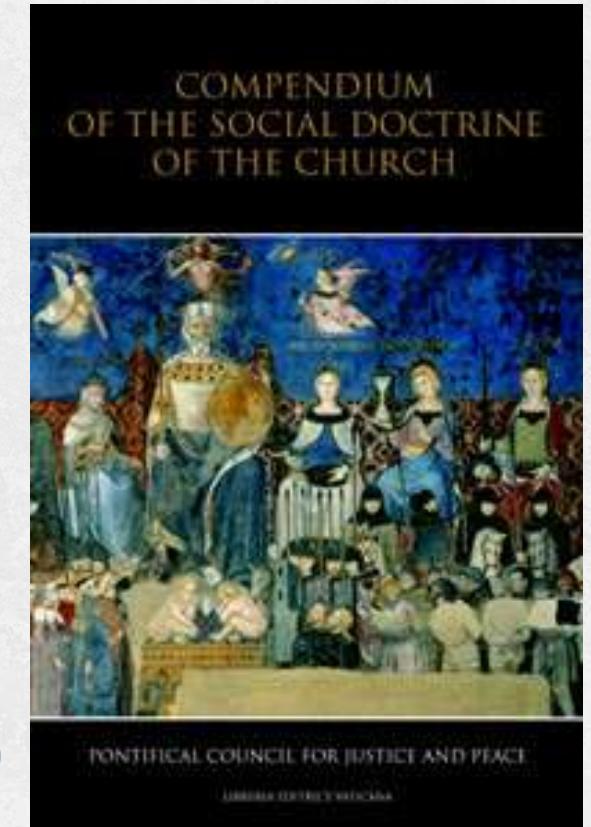
PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

LIBRARY OF THE HOLY SEE

www.vatican.va

Sources

- Old Testament
- Gospels
- Acts, Epistles
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Newer Papal Encyclicals, Constitutions, Exhortations
- Thomas Aquinas and other Saints
- Statements of Bishops (CCCB, Ontario Conference, USCCB)



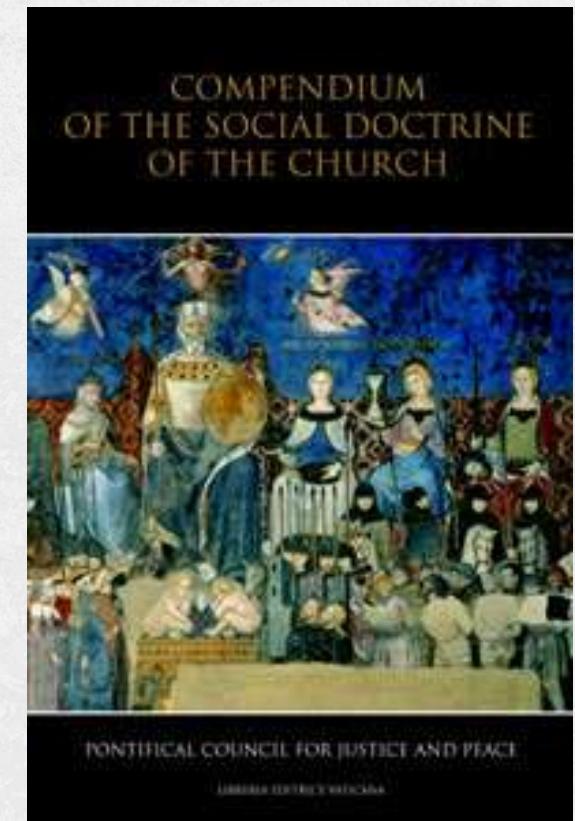
The Compendium *of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Permanent Principles

- *Dignity of the Human Person*
- *The Common Good*
- *Subsidiarity*
- *Solidarity*

Fundamental Values

- *Truth*
- *Freedom*
- *Justice*
- *Love*



Christian Theology

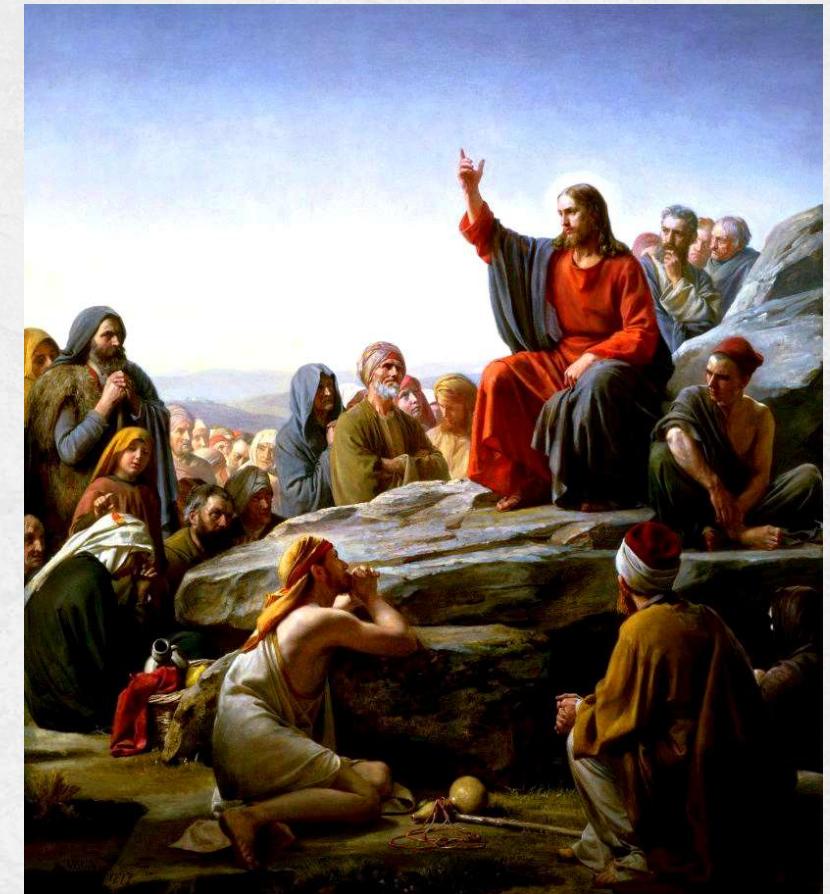
Old and New Testaments, Tradition, the Catechism...

Virtues

- *Faith*
- *Hope*
- *Prudence*
- *Proper Stewardship*
- *Humility*
- *Wisdom*
- ...

Social Sin

- *Exclusive Practices*
- *Environmental Sin*
- *Economic Abuse*
- ...



Sermon on the Mount, Carl Bloch, 1877 / Free Christ Images / Wikimedia

Permanent Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

The Dignity of the Human Person

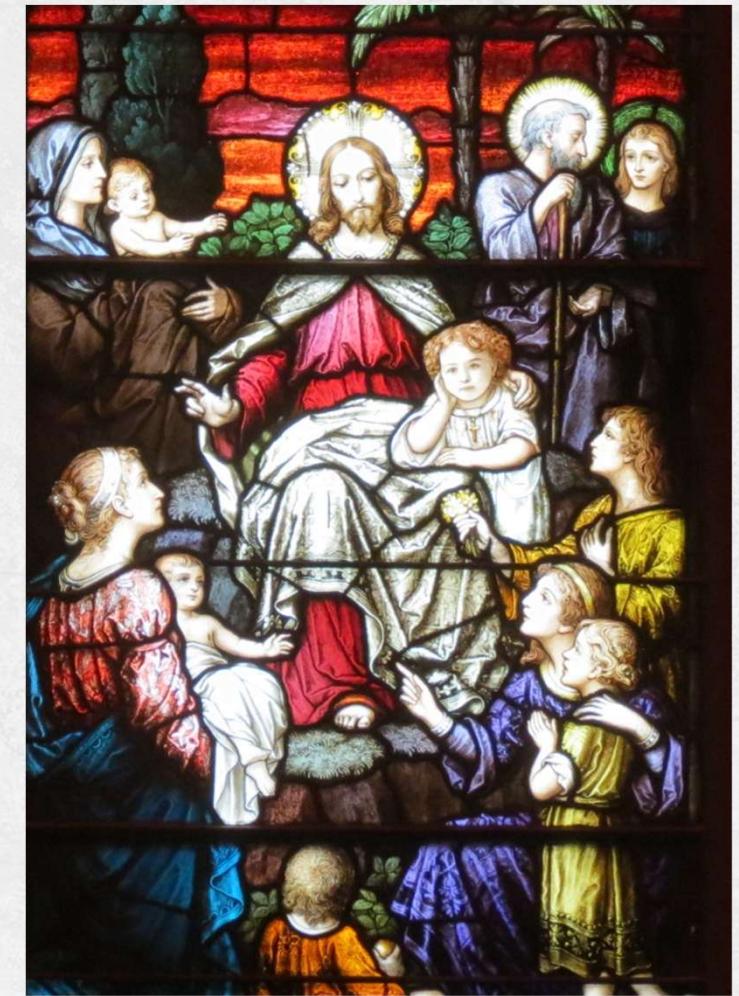
Each of us is made in the image and the likeness of God. That's an amazing gift.

How do we properly acknowledge it?

By using all the time, talent, and treasure that God has entrusted to us to seek and grow closer to God, by sharing in His continuing act of creation and caring for those around us. Our first purpose is to seek God, especially in one another.

If we do that, everything else will be given to us. Anything that interferes with that is contrary to the Word of God.

Genesis chapters 1 and 9; Matthew chapters 6, 22 & 25

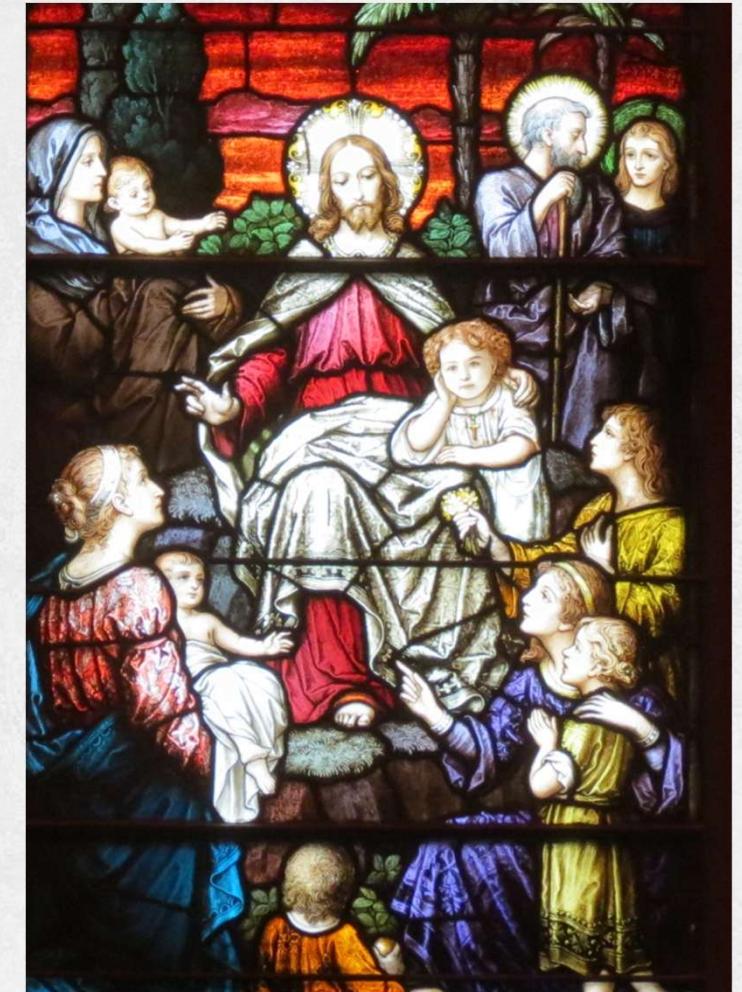


Children Come to Christ, St Patrick's Church, Toronto

The Dignity of the Human Person

We are each a unique image of God

- Life – from conception to natural death, including the unborn, the unwanted, and the elderly. God loves and wants us all, and expects us to help care for one another.
- Nurturing the family; health care; education, including moral education.
- Right to meaningful and dignified work, to support oneself while seeking and living in accordance with truth.
- Water, housing, nutrition and necessities.
- Human and civil rights, interracial and intercultural justice.



Children Come to Christ, St Patrick's Church, Toronto.
M Marquardt, 2009

The Common Good

Conditions for seeking fulfillment

The sum total of social conditions which allow people, as groups and as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully... above all:

- commitment to peace
- economy at the service of all people
- a sound juridical system
- conservation and environment
- worldwide cooperation for the good of all humanity, including future generations.

Compendium 164, 166



M Marquardt, 2015

Subsidiarity

Promoting freedom, growth, and truth

A product of freedom and responsibility.

It is important that each individual, and all smaller groups of people, be encouraged to make for themselves all the decisions that can responsibly be left to them. The state should provide any required support for putting such decisions into action, rather than allocating the task to larger groups or “higher” authorities for the sake of ease or efficiency.

Just as it is wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish and give it to the community, it is also an injustice... to assign to a greater association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do.

Quadragesimo Anno, 79



The Annunciation, St Mary's, Church Point NS. M Marquardt, 2008

Subsidiarity

Promoting freedom, growth, and truth

This principle is imperative because every person, family and intermediate group has something original to offer to the community. Experience shows that the denial of subsidiarity, or its limitation in the name of an alleged democratization or equality of all members of society, limits and sometimes even destroys the spirit of freedom and initiative.

Compendium, 187



The Annunciation, St Mary's, Church Point NS. M Marquardt, 2008

Subsidiarity

A Shining Example



The Annunciation, St Mary's, Church Point NS. M Marquardt, 2008

Solidarity

We are all dependent on one another

Solidarity is found in a commitment to the good of one's neighbour. **The good of one is the good of all**, and the other is as important as the self. Injustice done to another is an injustice that affects everyone.

– 193, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

“Which of these was the man’s neighbor?” Luke 10:36

- Preferential option for the poor
- Refugees and forced migration
- Indigenous relations
- Peacekeeping
- Rights and duties of workers



The Visitation, St Mary's, Church Point NS. M Marquardt, 2008

Familiar Formulations

Seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching:

- The Sanctity of Life
- Stewardship of Creation
- Family, Community, and the Common Good
- Economy at the Service of All
- The Individual and Society: Rights and Responsibilities
- Solidarity
- Good Government: Democracy, Justice, and Peace



Values

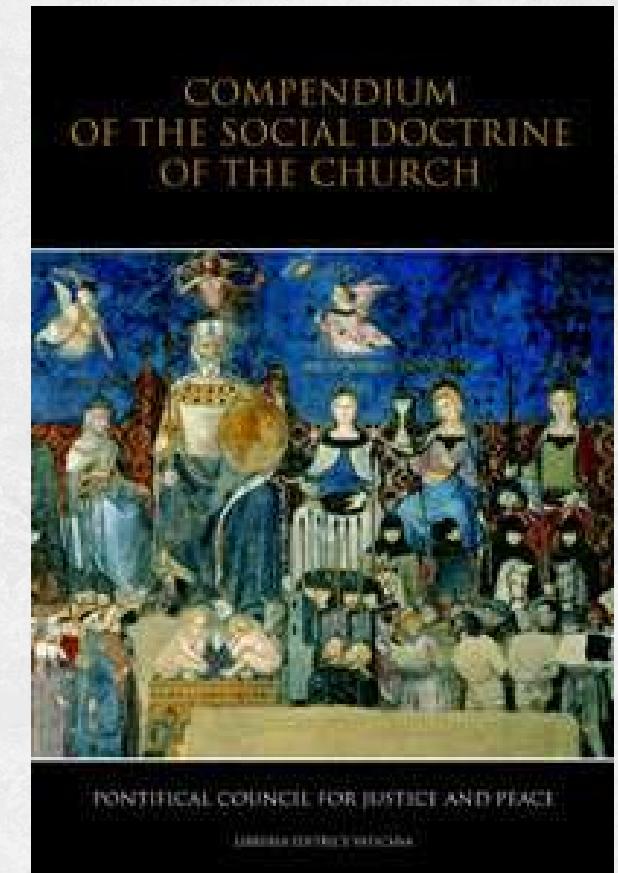
The Compendium

Fundamental Values

- *Truth*
- *Freedom*
- *Justice*
- *Love*

“Indispensable points of reference for public authorities.”

Compendium, 197



Truth

Light for the path

Men and women have the specific duty to move always towards the truth, to respect it and bear responsible witness to it. Living in the truth has special significance in social relationships. In fact, when the coexistence of human beings within a community is founded on truth, it is ordered and fruitful, and it corresponds to their dignity as persons.

Compendium, 198

Truth is the surest guidepost toward God.



Swearing a Witness, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Paper*, 1868 / www.senate.gov/ / Wikimedia Commons

Freedom

Each of us must choose, and must be allowed to choose

Freedom is the highest sign in man of his being made in the divine image and, consequently, is a sign of the sublime dignity of every human person.

The value of freedom, as an expression of the singularity of each human person, is respected when every member of society is permitted to fulfil his personal vocation; to seek the truth and profess his religious, cultural and political ideas; to express his opinions; to choose his state of life and, as far as possible, his line of work...

*199-200 Compendium of the Social
Doctrine of the Church*





The Holy See

LIBERTAS

ENCYCLICAL OF POPE LEO XIII
ON THE NATURE OF
HUMAN LIBERTY

There are many who imagine that the Church is hostile to human liberty. Having a false and absurd notion as to what liberty is, either they pervert the very idea of freedom, or they extend it at their pleasure to many things in respect of which man cannot rightly be regarded as free.

If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

John 8: 31-32

Justice

We must not hinder one another

...the constant and firm will to give God and neighbor their due.

The Church's social Magisterium constantly calls for the most classical forms of justice to be respected: commutative, distributive and legal justice. Ever greater importance has been given to social justice, the justice that regulates social relationships according to the criterion of observance of the law.

- 201, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*



Love

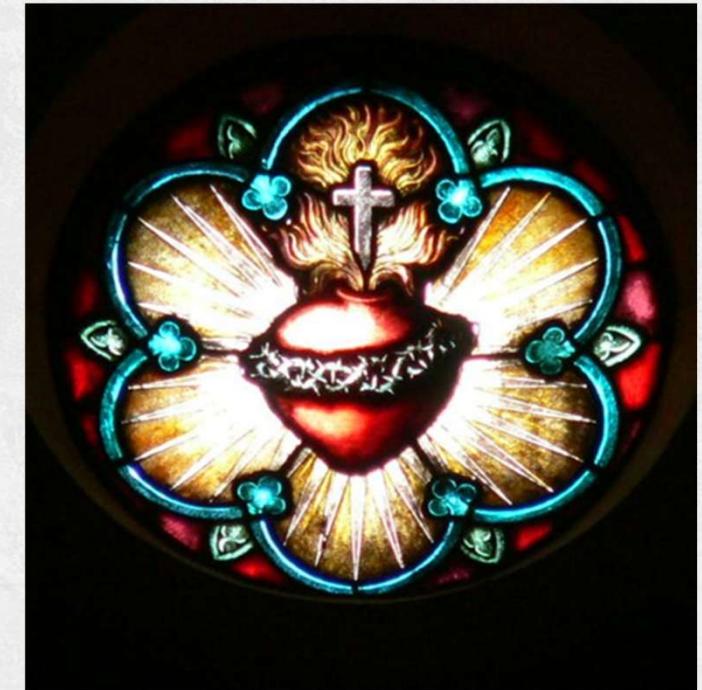
Love transcends justice: it is the Great Commandment

Brothers and Sisters, owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “*You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,*” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 13; 8-10

It is from the inner wellspring of love that the values of truth, freedom and justice are born and grow.

-205, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church



South Rose Window, Saint Patrick's Church Toronto
M Marquardt, 2009

Virtues & Sins

Informing the analysis

Virtues

- **Prudence:** *the ability to discern the most suitable course of action; practical wisdom, discretion.*
- **Stewardship:** *acting as a responsible manager of God's resources, recognizing that everything—including time, talents, and possessions—is a gift from God and ultimately belongs to Him.*
- **Humility:** *bearing a “lowliness of mind” that includes a modest view of one’s own importance, recognition of dependence upon God, and putting the interests of others before one’s own.*
- **Wisdom:** *the skill of applying knowledge and understanding to live a godly life which begins with fear of the Lord and involves moral and spiritual dimensions; the ability to make sound judgments and decisions which align with God’s will.*
- **etc....**



Social Sin

When we've gone too far

Seven Social Sins

- *Politics of fear, hate, or exclusion*
- *Misuse of creation*
- *Cultures of Indifference*
- *Unjust distribution of wealth*
- *Industry without conscience*
- *Technology without humanity*
- *Promoting or profiting from ignorance*

The Whole Point

Our sole job in this life is to seek God with our whole strength, by discerning, acknowledging, and using all of the gifts God has shared with us, for God's purposes, so that we can grow in knowledge of God and return His gifts to him with increase. And we must encourage others to do so.

Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

-- John 17:3

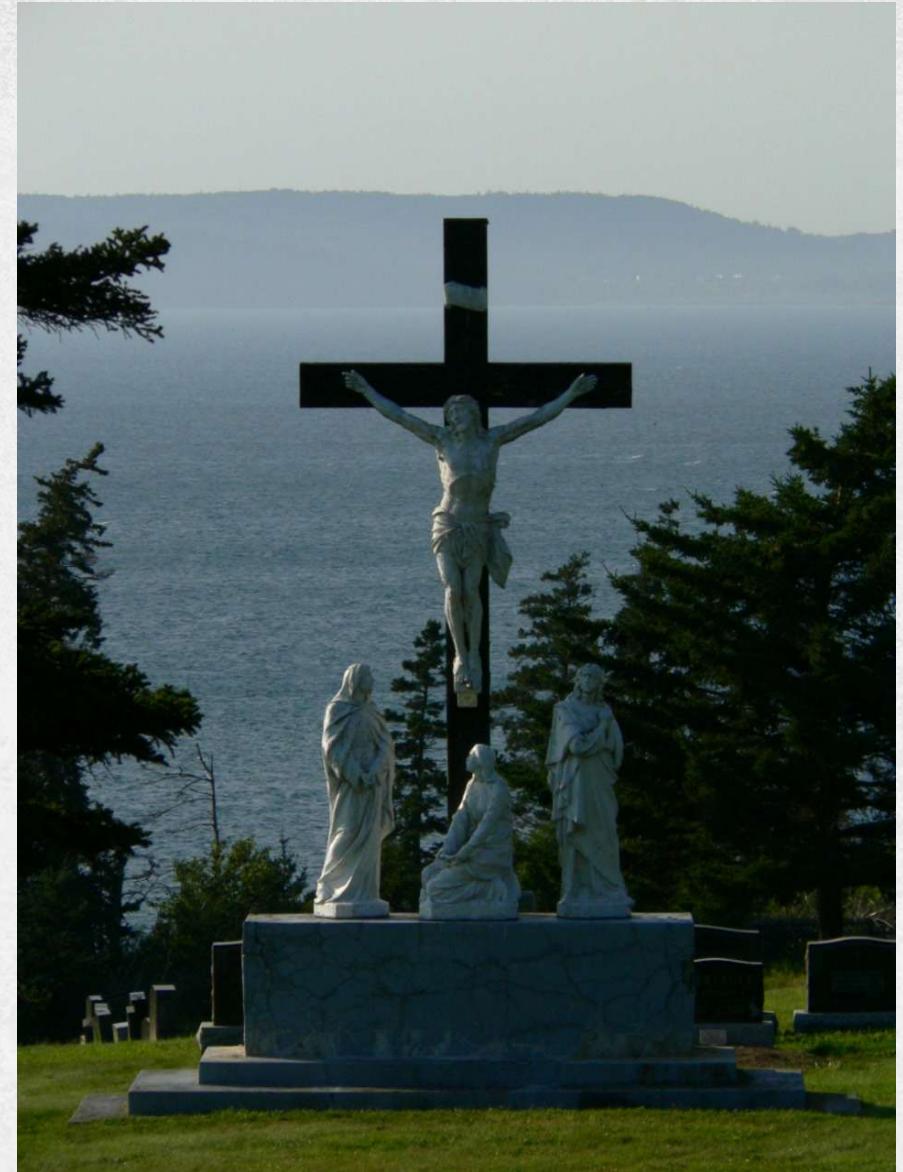
The Whole Point

It is our life's work, the very purpose of human society, to help gently gather people, and to bring them together toward Christ, so that he can lead us together to the Father.

“These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd... My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

-- John 10:16, 27

...and it is not fitting for us to despair. Despair is inconsistent with **faith and hope**.



St Bernard's Parish Cemetery, Meteghan NS. M Marquardt, 2008

Things looked much brighter again on the third day, just as He had said they would.



St Michael's Cathedral, Toronto. M Marquardt, 2020

Thank you!

Let's do what we can, in
faith, joy, hope and love.

Info@CatholicConscience.org



North Rose Window, Saint Patrick's Church Toronto
M Marquardt, 2009